Explored and compared parental involvement in EIBI services of mothers and fathers of child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

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INTRODUCTION

Problem

Early Intense Behavior Intervention (EIBI) is a form of ABA intervention design for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The few studies that have described parental involvement in EIBI for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a key factor to the success of the interventions, do not seem to investigate the family context.

Moreover, the existing literature shows limited data discriminating maternal contributions in EIBI and the family, from paternal ones.

While taking into account systemic factors (EIBI variables and family context), our study describes and compares the type and frequency of paternal and maternal involvement in EIBI.

Objectives

(1) Describe the type and frequency of paternal and maternal involvement in EIBI

(2) Compare the type and frequency of paternal and maternal involvement in EIBI

METHOD

Twenty-one mother-father dyads (42 parents) of a child with ASD participated to the study. The families received on average 13 hours of EIBI for 13 months

The parents were individually interviewed for about an hour with a list of questions revised by three experts in parental and paternal involvement in autism

We measured and analyzed: (1) sociodemographic information, (2) parental involvement in EIBI (PIQ), (3) the parent's satisfaction of the EIBI services (CSQ-8), and (4) the family's quality of life (FQoL).

RESULTS

Objective 1

Sample mesures description

Mesures	*n (=21)*	*X*	*ET*	*Min-Max*
PIQ-P	20	2,1	0,53	1,3 - 3
PIQ-M	20	2,89	0,24	2 - 3
FQoL-T1	20	4,07	0,62	2,92 - 4,84
FQoL-T2	14	4,24	0,62	2,88 - 5
CSQ8	21	3,61	0,34	2,875 - 4

**PIQ : 1=never; 2=sometimes; 3=often*
**FQOL : 1=very unsatisfied; 2= unsatisfied; 3= neutral; 4= satisfied; 5= very satisfied*
**CSQ8 : 1=not at all favorable; 2= somewhat favorable; 3= favorable; 4= very favorable*

Maternal and paternal involvement means are both between « sometimes » and « often »
Family Quality of Life from T1 and T2 is stable for parent dyads
Satisfaction of EIBI services is between « favorable » and « very favorable » for parent dyads

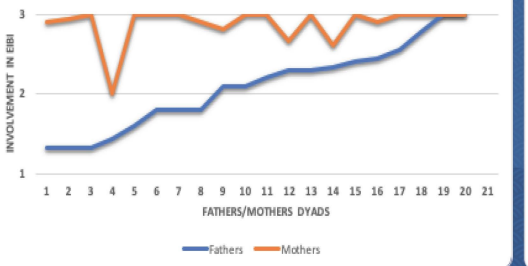
Type of Involvement in EIBI per parent (fathers / mothers)

Mesures per fathers/mothers		*Fathers Involvement EIBI*		*Mothers Involvement EIBI*	
Items		X	SD	X	SD
Involvement with the EIBI professionnal(s)	+++	2,20	0,62	3	0
Communication with the EIBI professionnal(s)		2,2	0,7	2,95	0,22
Parental training and/or coaching		2,15	0,67	2,79	0,54
Attendance to structured sessions		2,05	0,78	2,84	0,5
Observation at structured sessions		2,1	0,79	2,84	0,5
Participation in structured activities	- - -	1,85	0,75	2,68	0,57
Exercices to generalize knowledge		2,11	0,57	3	0
Management/planing/organization of generalization sessions	- - -	1,78	0,65	2,83	0,51
Supervisory meeting		2,05	0,78	3	0
Researching information on autism	+++	2,45	0,76	2,95	0,22

Objective 2

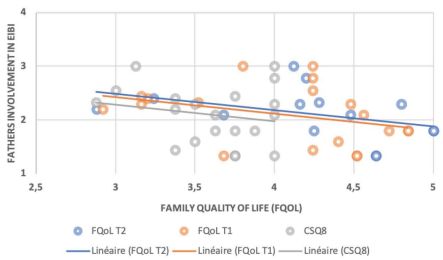
Paternal involvement is **more** focused on seeking information on autism and involvement with EIBI professionals AND **less** on participation in generalization and structured sessions/activities
Maternal involvement is high throughout the EIBI involvement items mesured

Graphic III : Fathers Involvement in EIBI AND Mothers Involvement in EIBI



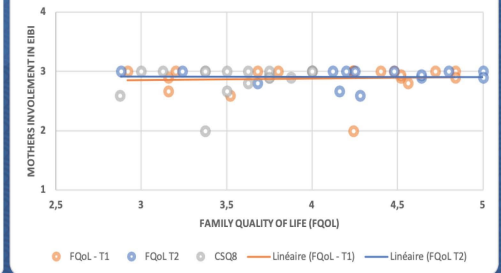
Maternal and paternal involvement means are not correlated (*rho*= ,24; p.>,05).

Graphic I : Fathers Involvement in EIBI AND FQoL + CSQ8



Paternal involvement in EIBI means are not correlated with any of the mesures AND any sociodemographic variables (including occupation status !)
Paternal involvement is only negatively correlated with family quality of life at T1 (rho=-,56; p.<,05) and T2 (rho=-,54; p.<,05)

Graphic II : Mothers Involvement in EIBI AND FQoL + CSQ8



Maternal involvement in EIBI means are not correlated with any of the mesures AND any sociodemographic variables

DISCUSSION

1

Fathers involvement levels in EIBI is lower than maternal ones, but both are in the same range, meaning « sometimes » to « often » in general.

Mothers show high levels of participation across all items of the « parent's participation in EIBI » questionnaire.

Fathers show more "peripheral" and less "proximal" forms of participation in this same questionnaire, such as direct and structured interventions with the child.

2

Mothers involvement in EIBI interventions is more constant and doesn't seems to be influenced by systemic or sociodemographic factors.

Fathers involvement in EIBI interventions only seems to correlates (negatively) with Family Quality Of Life. This finding emphasize the central role of family context to study fathers involvement.

Mothers and fathers involvement doesn't seems to have a link between them. No correlation were found.

Discussion. Our results suggests the involvement in EIBI for fathers and mothers seems different in form (peripheral/general), frequency (lesser/constant), and contextual factors (FQoL/none).

Our results should be interpreted with caution, considering that they are based on nonparametric and self-reported analysis. A future study will be conducted to measure the same variables as the current study, but in a prospective manner.

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